

Environment First Fund

The 2000 General Assembly established the Environment First Fund in [SF 2453](#) (FY 2001 Infrastructure Appropriations Act) to provide funding for protection, conservation, enhancement, and improvement of natural resources and established a standing appropriation of \$35.0 million for the Fund beginning in FY 2001 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). Funding levels have varied over the years and the current standing appropriation is \$42.0 million. See funding details below:

| Environment First Fund | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Appropriations for FY 2013 - FY 2017 | | | | | |
| | Actual FY 2013 | Actual FY 2014 | Actual FY 2015 | Actual FY 2016 | Estimated FY 2017 |
| Agriculture and Land Stewardship | | | | | |
| Conservation Reserve Enhancement | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 1,000,000 |
| Watershed Protection Fund | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 | 900,000 |
| Farm Management Demonstration | 625,000 | 625,000 | 625,000 | 625,000 | 625,000 |
| Soil & Water Conservation | 2,550,000 | 2,550,000 | 2,550,000 | 2,700,000 | 2,800,000 |
| Conservation Reserve Program | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Ag Drainage Wells | 550,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cost Share | 6,650,000 | 6,650,000 | 6,750,000 | 6,750,000 | 6,750,000 |
| Loess Hills | \$ 525,000 | \$ 525,000 | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 | \$ 600,000 |
| Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship | \$ 13,800,000 | \$13,250,000 | \$ 13,425,000 | \$ 13,575,000 | \$ 13,675,000 |
| Natural Resources | | | | | |
| Volunteers and Keepers of Land | 100,000 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Park Operations & Maintenance | 3,710,000 | 6,360,000 | 6,135,000 | 6,135,000 | 6,235,000 |
| GIS Information for Watershed | 195,000 | 195,000 | 195,000 | 195,000 | 195,000 |
| Water Quality Monitoring | 2,955,000 | 2,955,000 | 2,955,000 | 2,955,000 | 2,955,000 |
| Water Quality Protection | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Animal Feeding Operations | 620,000 | 1,320,000 | 1,320,000 | 1,320,000 | 1,320,000 |
| Ambient Air Quality Monitoring | 425,000 | 425,000 | 425,000 | 425,000 | 425,000 |
| Water Quantity | 495,000 | 495,000 | 495,000 | 495,000 | 495,000 |
| Geological and Water Survey | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Keep Iowa Beautiful | 0 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 0 |
| REAP | 12,000,000 | 16,000,000 | 16,000,000 | 16,000,000 | 16,000,000 |
| Forestry Health Management | 0 | 0 | 50,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Natural Resources | \$ 21,200,000 | \$28,750,000 | \$ 28,575,000 | \$ 28,425,000 | \$ 28,325,000 |
| Total Agriculture and Natural Resources | \$ 35,000,000 | \$42,000,000 | \$ 42,000,000 | \$ 42,000,000 | \$ 42,000,000 |

More Information

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?ga=86&groupID=673>

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Description of Major Programs

- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) – provides funds for wetlands development.
- [Conservation Reserve Program](#) – provides financial incentives to landowners.
- [Watershed Protection Fund](#) – provides funds to target water quality problems.
- [Soil Conservation Cost Share Program](#) – provides funds for permanent soil and water conservation practices.
- [Farm Management Demonstration Program](#) – demonstration of crop and livestock management techniques.
- [Alternative Drainage Assistance Fund](#) – provides cost-share funds to assist landowners with the closure of agriculture drainage wells.
- [Loess Hills Development and Conservation Authority](#) – provides funds to stabilize stream channels and preserve the Loess Hills.
- [Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund \(REAP\)](#) – as specified in statute.
- [State Park Operations and Maintenance](#) – maintenance and related activities.
- [Water Quality Protection Fund](#) – administers the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- [Water Quantity Program](#) – provides information on water usage.
- [Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program](#) – monitors air quality.
- [Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\) for Watershed](#) – The GIS is responsible for the development, management, and coordination of the Natural Resource Geographic Information System (NRGIS) for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The NRGIS is used to provide local watershed managers with data to develop, monitor, and display watershed improvements.
- [Animal Feeding Operations Program](#) – provides oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement.
- [Geological and Water Survey](#) – The Geological and Water Survey develops programs that provide comprehensive information regarding mineral and water resources in Iowa. This includes an emphasis on new water supply developments and monitoring water quality.
- [Forestry Health Management](#) – The Forestry Health Management Program is managed by the Forestry Bureau of the DNR that owns and oversees approximately 3.1 million acres of forests that support wildlife and recreation and provide other environmental benefits. This program is dedicated to monitoring, managing, and reducing insects and diseases that damage and harm Iowa's forests. Appropriated dollars allow the Department flexibility to allocate money as needed to a variety of forestry health uses.
- [Keep Iowa Beautiful](#) – provides funding for the Hometown Pride Program that will hire community coaches to provide technical assistance to selected counties and communities to implement cultural vitality, infrastructure, image, and sustainability plans.